Statement

Total Revenue Collection from Tobacco Products

(Amount in Rupees crore)

Description	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05* (Apr., 04 to Jan., 05)
Cigarettes and cigarillos of tobacco and tobacco substitutes	5060	5140	5495	4842
Biris	357	360	348	285
Chewing tobacco including kara masala, kimam etc.	631	632	614	460
All other goods falling under chapter 24	396	292	190	200
TOTAL	6444	6424	6647	5787

*Provisional figures.

Rate of Interest on Provident Fund

4243. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the rate of interest of Provident Fund/Public Provident Fund to 9.5 per cent as has been done by Government in the case of Employees Provident Fund;

(b) if not, why a different yardstick is being applied when in both the cases the beneficiaries are the employees of Government/Public Sector Undertakings, etc.; and

(c) whether Government propose to compensate Government/PSUs employees through some other method in view of this differential rate of interest in similar cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to increase the rate of interest on accumulations under General Provident Fund and Public Provident Fund. In respect of the rate of interest on Employees' Provident Fund accumulations for 2004-05, the Central Board of Trustees of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation have not recommended the final rate of interest to the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.